

2004 Annual Report of the Missouri State Park Advisory Board

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Bob Holden, Governor

Stephen M. Mahfood, Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Douglas K. Eiken, Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks

Missouri State Park Advisory Board

Record of Decisions for 2004

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| January 8, 2004 | Motion made once again for a recommendation advising the Division of State Parks not to give up land on the Katy Trail. Motion carried. |
| January 8, 2004 | Motion made to recommend amending the Watkins Woolen Mill State Historic Site fee structure. Motion carried. |
| January 8, 2004 | Motion made to recommend the revision of the fees at the Lake of the Ozarks State Park Grand Glaize Beach and Public Beach #1. Motion carried. |
| May 14, 2004 | Motion made to recommend approving the Conceptual Development Plans at Babler, Pershing and Mark Twain State Parks. Motion carried. |
| May 14, 2004 | Motion made to recommend the approval of the ramp fee increase at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. Motion carried. |
| July 16, 2004 | Motion made to recommend approving the Conceptual Development Plan at Crowder State Park. Motion carried. |
| October 12, 2004 | Motion made to recommend approving requests for concession price increases. Motion carried. |

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks for Fiscal Year 2004

Number of Areas: 83 state parks and historic sites and the Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry

Acreage: 140, 344.74 acres in state parks and historic sites; and access to 61,000 acres in Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry

Visitation: 17,120,989

Employment: 652 classified employees; 105.70 seasonals

Financial Information for Fiscal Year 2004:

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| Total operating and capital improvement expenditures (less fringe benefits) | \$43,952,946 |
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| Revenues from operations | \$ 7,532,989 |
|--------------------------|--------------|

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|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Revenues from dedicated sales tax | \$37,632,821 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|

How To Reach Us

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2004 YEAR-END SUMMARY

Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources administers Missouri's state park system, which preserves the state's most outstanding natural landscapes and cultural landmarks and provides opportunities for recreation. The following are some of the major accomplishments from 2004.

Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park in St. Charles County was dedicated May 9. The 1,118-acre park preserves the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and was made possible through a series of donations, partnerships and cooperative agreements. The day-use area park features wildlife observation, wetland restoration and interpretation. The park was opened as part of the department's commitment to the Lewis and Clark Expedition bicentennial and exhibits tell the story of the expedition.

Clark's Hill/Norton State Historic Site in Cole County was dedicated May 29. The 13-acre site preserves a hill that William Clark noted in his journal in 1804 when the Corps of Discovery camped at the confluence of the Missouri and Osage rivers. The site features a one-half mile trail to an overlook and interpretation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The site was donated by William and Carol Norton of Jefferson City.

The **centralized campground reservation system**, which was implemented in 2003, was expanded in 2004. Three hundred and fifty campsites in 11 state parks and historic sites were added, bringing the total to 2,350 campsites in 35 state parks and historic sites now in the program. The system was implemented to make reserving campsites easier and more convenient. The number of reservations increased from 44,621 in 2003 to 53,496 in 2004. The average number of nights stayed increased from 3.28 to 3.34. Complaints were down 46 percent from 2003.

A **"missing masterpiece" survey** sought public input on what natural, cultural and recreational resources were missing from the Missouri state park system. The survey, which was available either by hard copy or online, also provided opportunities to voice any opinions about the standards used to establish and maintain the state park system. Any potential new state park or historic site identified in the survey was required to meet those standards and adequate resources must be available to acquire and manage it. More than 1,500 surveys were submitted. This information will be used to update the division's park and site action plan.

A **St. Louis Area Office** was created within the division to ensure better coordination of services and activities for state parks and historic sites in the St. Louis area. Six historic sites and state parks (as well as a portion of Katy Trail State Park) are coordinated through the office, which is located within Scott Joplin House State Historic Site. A cultural program and outreach coordinator was hired to assist in the office.

Several organizational changes were made to create **operational management areas** among state parks and historic sites to improve efficiency and service to the public. New operational areas and interdisciplinary area management teams were created in southwest, southeast and northern Missouri.

The division hosted the **National Association of State Park Directors Conference** in September in St. Louis. The conference is held annually to discuss current state park trends and issues. Attendees included directors and/or representatives from 48 states. In addition to conference sessions, participants had a chance to visit numerous Missouri state parks and historic sites.

The department was a co-sponsor of the first **Missouri Trail Summit** in Columbia in October. The summit was designed for park professionals, municipal staff and representatives,

planners, trail advocates and trail users with a goal to learn about and promote best practices in trail development and use. Field trips to several state parks were included.

The **Missouri State Park Passport Program** used a Lewis and Clark theme for 2004, which was the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Participants were invited to visit 10 state parks and historic sites along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Those who successfully visited all 10 earned a commemorative Lewis and Clark patch. This was the fifth year of a five-year passport program.

WOW National Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Schools were held in St. Louis in June and at Roaring River State Park near Cassville in October. These schools are designed to help participants master new outdoor skills or improve existing ones.

More than **50 informational meetings** and open houses were held at state parks and historic sites in 2004. These meetings are held annually for each park and site to provide visitors with opportunities to have input on facilities and services. More than 700 people attended these meetings.

More than 240,000 people attended almost **300 special events** in more than 60 state parks and historic sites.

Eighteen communities received more than \$1.6 million in federal **Land and Water Conservation Fund** grants to assist with outdoor recreation projects. Twenty communities received more than \$1.1 million in federal **Recreational Trails Program** grants for construction, maintenance, restoration and development of trails. These projects will construct 35 miles of new non-motorized trail, maintain an estimated 78 miles of existing non-motorized trail, and maintain/repair more than 50 miles of existing motorized trail.

Through the **Volunteers in Parks (VIP)** Program, 1,250 volunteers contributed 144,500 hours to the state park system. This total included 350 campground hosts who volunteered 119,000 hours. Other volunteer categories included aides, trail workers, interpreters, etc. The total value of this volunteer effort is estimated to be more than \$1.25 million.

Almost 300 bicycle riders participated in the annual **Katy Trail Ride**, which took participants on a 225-mile five-day ride from St. Charles to Clinton on Katy Trail State Park. Ride participants ranged in age from nine to 80 and came from 28 states and Canada. Photographs and highlights of each day's ride were posted on the park's Web site so friends and families could follow the ride's progress.

A **Grand Glaize Beach Operations Task Force** was created to provide input for Lake of the Ozarks State Park. The 13-member group was asked to provide input to the department for the Pa He Tsi and Grand Glaize Beach areas of the park on the overall operations, including fishing tournaments and general public use. The group provided options and recommendations on topics from fishing tournaments and special events to care of natural resources. The recommendations will be submitted to the Missouri State Park Advisory Board in January.

A major new exhibit on the Osage Indian nation opened at **Arrow Rock State Historic Site**. The exhibit was provided by the Osage Tribal Museum in Pawhuska, Okla., and included such objects as the shield of Chief Black Dog and children's toys.

Another exhibit from the Osage Tribal Museum in Oklahoma was on display at **Van Meter State Park**. This exhibit focused on the time after the Osage Allotment Act in 1906, which divided tribal land among the Osage tribe members. The exhibit included photographs and artifacts, including an Osage Indian dice game. Both of the Osage exhibits reflect an improved relationship and increased cooperation between the tribes and the state of Missouri as a result of the Lewis and Clark Expedition bicentennial.

Restoration of the natural features at **Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park** began with the help of 50 "River Kids." Students from the New City School in St. Louis assisted staff by planting 200 pin oak, swamp white oak and pecan trees, which are native

to the area. Eventually, the park will be restored to a mix of forests, prairies and wetlands as the confluence point would have been in the past.

The process for developing long-range **conceptual development plans** was completed for Mark Twain and Pershing state parks and continued for Crowder state park. Conceptual development plan efforts began for Fort Davidson, Deutschheim and Bollinger Mill state historic sites. Input for these plans is sought from the public through meetings, surveys at the facilities and online surveys. The online surveys and plans were accessed almost 500 times.

Missouri Mines State Historic Site closed temporarily in December so work could be done on a special project to enhance interpretation at the site. The project included sorting and cataloging an extensive collection of minerals, working on a major new exhibit for the museum, and renovating the museum to expand the interpretive area. The site is scheduled to reopen in April 2005.

The public could receive information through **e-mail and mail requests** and the division's **toll-free number**. The division responded to more than 4,500 e-mail requests and more than 900 written requests for information. The division received 61,499 automated toll-free calls and responded to 16,717 operator-assisted toll-free calls.

Additional information was added to the division's **Web site**, including public surveys for three parks and sites in the conceptual development plan process, and accessible information and photographs for 14 parks and sites. During 2004, there were 12, 972,710 hits on the Web page, a 36.5 percent increase from the same period in 2003.

To reach regular park users and attract new visitors, the division staffed **exhibits** at 12 sports/RV tradeshows including ones in Kansas City, St. Louis, St. Joseph, Columbia, Springfield, Poplar Bluff and Farmington. Exhibits also were set up at the Ozark Empire Fair, the Missouri Parks and Recreation Conference and the Missouri Equine Council Show.

A contract with **AFSCME** (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) was ratified and took effect Feb. 10. The contract included state park employees in the crafts and maintenance categories. The contract outlined ways that employment is offered, promotions made and grievances resolved.

The **State Park Ranger Program** joined other Missouri law enforcement agencies in an effort to raise awareness about safe and responsible firearms ownership and storage. As a part of this effort, the program distributed free gunlocks and safety education messages in Missouri state parks and historic sites.

Interpretive plans, which determine how to best explain what parks and sites preserve and why, were completed for Ha Ha Tonka State Park and Sugar Loaf Rock; division staff gave tours to this privately owned area during 2004 because of its relevance to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Work on **resource management plans** for state parks and historic sites is progressing. Eight cultural resource management plans are in the process of being written and three of these (for Pershing, Mark Twain and Crowder state parks) are ready to begin the signature process. Natural resource management plans for 11 facilities have been signed. Writing is under way for other facilities, including those for important cave systems at Onondaga Cave State Park and Ozark Caverns at Lake of the Ozarks State Park; wetlands at Pershing and Big Oak Tree state parks; and signature Ozark landscapes at Sam A. Baker and Truman state parks. Different individual plans make up the facility's general management plan, which includes all aspects of policy and management. When the cultural resource management plan is signed, Mark Twain State Park will be the first park to complete all phases of its **general management plan**.

The **Interpretive Themes Task Force** is drafting its final report and it should be completed in the first quarter of 2005. The task force was created to review the topics and themes currently being interpreted and to recommend changes and additions needed to better represent the diversity of Missouri's history.

A comprehensive management plan for **Roaring River Hills Wild Area** in Roaring River State Park was developed by environmental groups cooperating with state and federal natural resource agency professionals. This is the first such public/private planning partnership to benefit a state park wilderness area. A similar planning partnership is under way for the Mudlick Mountain Wild Area at Sam A. Baker State Park.

The division's **Cultural Resource Fund** was used to fund 24 projects for almost \$28,000. These funds are used to protect and preserve artifacts, do research and improve cultural resources. The projects in 2004 ranged from restoration of a 19th century sideboard for the Huston Tavern in Arrow Rock State Historic Site, conserving a Thomas Hart Benton lithograph, and restoring the original land deed of title for property at Meramec State Park.

The division's training section conducted **25 different training sessions** to almost 600 employees. Programs ranged from basic supervision and effective interviewing to cyclical maintenance and confined space training. By providing inhouse training, overall training costs were reduced. This training was in addition to the new employee orientation, which is given to all new employees.

Hawn State Park hosted the **National Orienteering/Geocaching** competition in March. Approximately 400 people from around the world participated in the two-day event.

A new room known as Phyllis' room was opened in the **Hunter-Dawson State Historic Site**. Phyllis was a slave belonging to the Hunters and the room interprets that aspect of the site's history.

Mastodon State Historic Site partnered with the Jefferson County juvenile office in a successful program for juvenile offenders to work in community service. Nine juveniles contributed 144 hours of service in addition to 30 adults who worked 541 hours. The appearance of the site grounds displayed a marked improvement.

Les Amis, the friends group for Felix Valle House State Historic Site, held a Bicentennial Ball in conjunction with Lewis and Clark bicentennial activities in St. Louis. The group was able to raise \$150,000, earmarked for the restoration of the **Bauvais-Amoureux House**, which is a part of the site.

Near the end of its fifth year of electronic cataloging, the division's **artifact database** includes 74,749 records (an increase from the 65,880 records at the end of 2003). This represents 37.4 percent of the estimated 200,000 artifacts in the division's collection. Cataloging was completed this year at Meramec, Knob Noster and Prairie state parks.

The **Natural Resource Inventory Database System** (NRIDS) was expanded for facilities statewide. This database allows for the storage and quick retrieval of natural history information for all parks, including lists such as birds, trees or wildflowers for visitor use.

The \$150,000 resource stewardship budget funded **landscape restoration** and exotic species control work at 17 facilities, plus two AmeriCorps crews to help construct fire lines, conduct prescribed burns and do environmental restoration at numerous facilities statewide. Approximately 5,000 acres were prescribed burned to help preserve natural environments and native Missouri plants and wildlife.

A new natural area was designated at Long Branch State Park. **Chariton River Hills Natural Area** preserves a rare tallgrass prairie and woodland resource. The department also completed its three-year term as the administrative agency for the Missouri Natural Areas Committee, which is a multi-agency committee.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) layers and maps were developed for many state park features, and became standard features of Natural Resource Management Plans, state natural area nominations and natural resource planning.

Approximately \$30,000 in supportive **biological inventory and scientific research** was funded by the state's university system to assist in the care and preservation of the system's natural resources.

A new **Ozark Trail brochure** was developed and distributed. The brochure included information on all sections of the trail and information on how to obtain more information. The large, full-color fold-out brochure is the first comprehensive brochure on the trail. The brochure was coordinated with the other agencies involved and was paid for by a grant from the federal Recreational Trails Program.

Approximately 325 acres were added to the state park system at nine facilities. **These acquisitions** included 240 acres at Roaring River State Park to protect the watershed and 42 acres at Ha Ha Tonka State Park upstream from River Cave to protect the cave.

Interpreters at state parks and historic sites presented more than 9,000 different kinds of programs to more than 1.1 million visitors. Interpreters provided almost 700 programs to schools. Visitor satisfaction for these interpretive programs was 79.6 percent very satisfied and 20.3 percent satisfied. A computer reporting system has been instituted that will allow more accurate reporting of interpretive services.

More than 1,200 people of all ages completed the program to become a **Junior Naturalist**.

Nine exhibits were on display throughout the year at the **Rozier Gallery**, a part of Jefferson Landing State Historic Site. These rotating exhibits ranged from watercolors of Lewis and Clark scenes to photographs of county courthouses.

Conservation and treatment were completed for eight more **historic Civil War battleflags** from the Missouri State Museum. The flags are now being framed, which will greatly improve the ability to move and display them.

The division co-hosted the 2004 **National Association for Interpretation** Region IV workshop in Kansas City. More than 200 naturalists, historians and other interpreters attended from Missouri and five surrounding states as well as national organizations such as the National Park Service. Division staff presented many of the programs and workshops.

Approximately 100 students attended the **Spring Interpreters School** at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park. In addition to division full-time and seasonal staff, others attending the 40-hour course included staff from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Missouri Department of Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisiana state parks and Arkansas state parks. The division has been recognized for the high quality of its inhouse interpretation training and other states look at this program as a model.

Staff began developing an **astronomy manual** for interpreters to use in interpreting the night sky to park visitors. It includes Lewis and Clark astronomy (use of sextant and lunar distances), sky legends, the sun, Mercury and Venus at this point. The project should be completed for the summer of 2005.

Ten **traveling trunks** were developed that contained resource material for presentations on mammals in state parks and sites. These trunks included skins, skulls and resources for program presentation material.

The first ever **Environmental Management System (EMS)** for Missouri state parks was initiated for St. Joe State Park. An EMS incorporates environmental conscientiousness into the mission and goals of any project.

The State Park Ranger Program completed the third and final implementation phase of a new RMS (**records management system**), which allows rangers to enter law enforcement reports directly into the network from remote work locations. Efficiencies associated with RMS include the elimination of a vacant part-time clerical position and a \$4,000 annual savings in operation costs.

Through a \$25,000 federal grant through the State Emergency Management Agency, the State Park Ranger Program was able to receive **terrorism preparedness equipment**, including satellite telephones, hand-held metal detectors, global positioning systems and personal protective equipment.

Community oriented policing services were expanded by increasing the number of rangers assigned to bicycle patrols in state parks and historic sites.

Through an agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Edward “Ted” and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park and Weston Bend State Park were included in the **Missouri River Public Use Study**. The goal of the project is to provide resource managers and fisheries biologists with an accurate depiction of current use and the economic impact of the river on the state’s economy.

The second annual **bison auction** was held at Prairie State Park and generated more than \$7,000 in revenue. The bison herd must be reduced to keep it at a size that is compatible with the prairie environment.

Nine state parks have been designated as **Important Bird Areas** (IBA) in Missouri by Audubon Missouri. IBAs are part of a worldwide effort to identify, monitor and protect the areas that are most important to birds in our modern landscapes. IBAs in Missouri include Cuivre River, Weston Bend, Pershing, Big Oak Tree, Lake of the Ozarks, Taum Sauk Mountain, Ha Ha Tonka, Hawn, Edward “Ted” and Pat Jones-Confluence Point and Roaring River state parks.

Interpretive exhibits were completed for eight trailheads along Katy Trail State Park. These new **info depots** were completed at Boonville, New Franklin, Rocheport, McBaine, Hartsburg, North Jefferson, Marthasville and St. Charles.

More than 100 campground hosts attended the third annual **Campground Host Rally** at Mark Twain State Park. The rally is held each year to acquaint the volunteers with state park issues.

During the re-enactment for the 140th anniversary of the **Battle of Pilot Knob**, the Powers family donated Capt. Pinckney Powers’ sword to Fort Davidson State Historic Site.

The four-week eighth annual Ste. Genevieve Field School was held in June and July and was again sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources and the Southeast Missouri State University. Division staff worked with students on archaeology techniques in addition to sessions on paint analysis.

After prisoners moved out of the **Missouri State Penitentiary** in September, staff began a project to document this historic prison. Video documentation has been conducted through most of the prison buildings. Staff also began a series of oral history interviews with prisoners and guards.

Arrow Rock: Cross Road of the Missouri Frontier was published by the Friends of Arrow Rock. The new **history of Arrow Rock** was written by Mike Dickey, administrator at Arrow Rock State Historic Site.

The division co-sponsored an **archaeological field school** with the University of Missouri-St. Louis, which was probing for the possible site of Sibley’s trading post with the Osage in present-day Saline County.

The **Friends of the Anderson House**, a support group made up primarily of Civil War re-enactors interested in the Battle of Lexington, has continued to sponsor several weekend special events at the site. This has increased the interpretive efforts at the site with little additional cost to the state.

The **Friends of the Benton Home** went through a renaissance as a new group of Benton enthusiasts appeared and added new vigor to prior efforts. The group already has co-sponsored promotional events on and off the Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site.

A life-size bust of **Thomas Hart Benton** was donated to Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site by a St. Joseph contributor.

The entrance fee to the visitor center at **Watkins Woolen Mill State Park and State Historic Site** was eliminated in an effort to enhance visitation to the site.

Watkins Mill, The Factory on the Farm was published. The book was co-authored by **Watkins Woolen Mill State Park and State Historic Site's** former administrator and is a good resource for anyone interested in 19th century milling and weaving.

2004 Major Improvement Projects

During 2004, many significant improvement and construction projects were accomplished within the state park system. Many were visible to the public while others included infrastructure projects that help protect the environment and provide a better overall service to the public. While some were contracted to private companies, many were completed by the park system's inhouse construction units. The majority of these projects are funded by the one-tenth-of-one-percent parks-and-soils sales tax. The following are some of the major highlights.

The campground at **Onondaga Cave State Park** was completely renovated and reopened. The renovated campground has 68 campsites; 49 sites have 50 amp electrical service and water hookups and the others are basic sites. In addition to increasing the number of electrical sites, the renovation included a new design to reduce flooding in the campground.

A severe windstorm damaged **Harry S Truman State Park** on July 5, forcing the closing of the park. Crews worked throughout the remainder of the summer and early fall to clear the park of damaged trees and reopen facilities. All the campgrounds were able to reopen for Labor Day weekend and the entire park was completely reopened this fall.

In a major effort to improve camping services, 50-amp **electrical service** was added to more than 200 campsites at Montauk, Stockton, Mark Twain and Meramec state parks.

St. Joe State Park opened 25 new 50 amp electric campsites in the off-road-vehicle campground. The project was partially funded through a federal Recreational Trails Program grant.

Through a contract with the concessionaire, 11 50 amp electric campsites were completed in **Table Rock State Park**. These replace the basic sites lost to marina expansion.

A new road to the old marina boat ramp at **Lake Wappapello State Park** was completed. The new two-way road with a gradual incline replaced two steep one-way access roads that were difficult to traverse by some vehicles, boats and camping trailers.

Work began on the reconstruction of the boardwalk at **Big Oak Tree State Park**. The new boardwalk will be completed in sections, with the final 3,000-foot boardwalk expected to be completed in 2006.

A new two-mile trail now connects **Table Rock State Park** with the Dewey Short Visitor Center and the Showboat Branson Belle. The paved trail was a cooperative effort of the Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Herschend Family Entertainment Corporation.

The **Dolomite Rock Trail** was developed at Ha Ha Tonka State Park. The one-half mile trail goes by karst features and through glade and savanna landscapes. A self-guiding brochure has been developed so visitors can get a better understanding of the features of the trail.

A new **interpretive trail** was developed at Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site from the contact station through the woods to the Boone home.

Several parks were connected to **public utilities**, eliminating the need for individual water and sewer systems. Examples were at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Big Oak Tree State Park, Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, Table Rock State Park and the Hermitage side of Pomme de Terre State Park.

A **stream improvement project** was completed at Montauk State Park in the catch-and-release trout fishing area. A portion of the stream channel was made narrower and somewhat deeper to stimulate enhanced trout habitat. This was a cooperative project between the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Conservation.

At **Bennett Spring State Park**, work was completed on the exterior remodeling of three four-plex cabins and work continues on two more. Six river cabins were repainted and received new roofs. New furniture was included for all.

A new shelter was constructed in the day use area at **Battle of Athens State Historic Site**. The new shelter was designed to resemble the store that sat on the site in the 1861 town of Athens. The new shelter helps interpretive efforts by restoring a portion of the lost town and provides a platform for both recreational picnics and educational programs.

Painting began on the lodge at **Bothwell Lodge State Historic Site**. The lodge is reverting to a historic era color scheme.

Five new **water storage standpipes** were constructed at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. The standpipes are the latest component of a multi-year effort to upgrade the water system infrastructure at the park. Improvements and repairs to wells, pumps and distribution systems and the installation of new chlorination systems were completed throughout the years.

Numerous **playgrounds** were installed at different state parks and historic sites, replacing ones that no longer met current safety standards.

All main sewer lines have been completed at Roaring River State Park, continuing a major upgrade of the **park's infrastructure**. In addition to better protecting the environment, the new infrastructure has resulted in a significant savings for the park's operating budget. Numerous other infrastructure improvements were made throughout the state park system.

New **boat launches** were developed at Washington and Route 66 state parks. Each also included a parking area and vault toilet.

At **Roaring River State Park**, four duplexes and the restrooms at the CCC Lodge were renovated.

At **Route 66 State Park**, renovations were completed to the store and development was completed on two picnic shelters, restrooms and a parking area.

Planning began for a project to construct 1,100 feet of steps at **Cuivre River State Park** to provide safe access between the campground and adjoining recreation area. The project also will provide protection to a sensitive ecological area by reducing erosion. The project will be partially funded by a federal Recreational Trails Program grant.

An Eagle Scout project at **Weston Bend State Park** helped install picnic tables and a bench and transplanted trees at the park's Hill Homestead Trailhead.

By working with the Grundy County Electric Coop, electric meters at **Crowder State Park** were reduced from 12 to one, resulting in an annual savings for the park at \$2,500.

At Camp Shawnee at **Knob Noster State Park**, two projects to install electric lights and renovate sewer lines were completed. With the help of AmeriCorp members, 80 percent of the camp's painting and roof repair project was completed.

A five-acre prairie was established near the picnic area at **Lewis and Clark State Park**. The effort will enhance the park's interpretive efforts and decrease funds expended on mowing.

An interpretive project in conjunction with the Lewis and Clark Expedition bicentennial was about 90 percent complete at **Lewis and Clark State Park**. The project is expected to be dedicated in the spring in conjunction with a scheduled Lewis and Clark bicentennial event.

A new boardwalk was constructed in the Oumessourit Natural Area in **Van Meter State Park**. The boardwalk lets visitors explore the marsh and wetland area of the park. The boardwalk will be dedicated in 2005 once interpretive exhibits are installed.

In conjunction with the Lewis and Clark Expedition bicentennial and to emphasize the Native American significance at **Van Meter State Park**, a Native American food garden was installed.

A new accessible ramp was installed for the west entrance of the Pershing home at the **Gen. John J. Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site**. This Boy Scout Eagle project now enables wheelchair-bound visitors to access the house.

Work began on strengthening the dam for Williams Lake at **Watkins Mill State Park and Historic Site**. The project is intended to reduce the risk of flooding downstream and should be completed in spring 2005.

The service area at **Rock Bridge Memorial State Park** was relocated to include the new construction of a service building, a large storage building, entrance road and parking.

Eight restroom additions were constructed to sleeping cabins in **Camp Rising Sun** at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. The new additions will be operational in the 2005 season.

The old supply house at **Missouri Mines State Historic Site** was renovated into a new site maintenance shop with an office, two shop rooms, storage room, garage area and staff/public restrooms.

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Projects in 2004

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources made a major commitment to activities commemorating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. In 2004, this was carried out in two major areas: support from the department's Division of State Park staff for the Missouri Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission and projects the division did within the state park system. The following are some of the major accomplishments associated with the bicentennial. For a complete listing of accomplishments of the Missouri Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission, an annual report is available.

Two new facilities were added to the state park system: Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park, which is located at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, and Clark's Hill/Norton State Historic Site, which preserves a hill noted by William Clark in his 1804 journal.

Guided public tours were offered to **Sugar Loaf Rock**, a privately owned landmark mentioned in the Lewis and Clark journals. This was made possible by an agreement with the local landowner for temporary limited access for the bicentennial.

More than **100 interpretive signs** were placed at publicly accessible locations along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. This was a cooperative effort with other state agencies. Many of the signs were placed in state parks and historic sites, including numerous ones along Katy Trail State Park.

Two brochures were produced for the general public: the redesigned Lewis and Clark in Missouri brochure and the American Indian Resource Handbook. Also produced was a special events planning guide for use by Missouri communities in conjunction with the bicentennial.

Assistance and coordination was provided for **three national signature events** in St. Louis, St. Charles and Kansas City.

Staff also assisted the National Park Service to provide logistical and program support for its **Corps of Discovery II** traveling visitor center at nine Missouri locations and beyond.

Through a partnership with the Missouri Historical Society, a Lewis and Clark in Missouri **panel exhibit and curriculum** were developed. This exhibit was created to travel throughout Missouri during the bicentennial years.

A **Web site** created as the key site for Lewis and Clark information continued to be upgraded and was well received by the public. The Web site received more than 610,000 hits, a 237 percent increase from 2003.

Info depots were developed at eight trailheads along **Katy Trail State Park** and included information on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Katy Trail State Park contains the longest non-motorized segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.